



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Jersey*

*970 Broad Street, Suite 700  
Newark, NJ 07102*

*973-645-2700*

SB/PL AGR

April 5, 2019

Philip Nettl, Esq.  
Benedict and Altman  
247 Livingston Avenue  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901  
Ph. (732) 745-9000  
Fax (732) 214-1897

*CR19-532*

**Re: Plea Agreement with James A. Gabany**

Dear Mr. Nettle:

This letter sets forth the plea agreement between your client, JAMES GABANY, and the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey ("this Office"). This offer will expire if a fully executed agreement is not returned to our Office by April 24, 2019.

**Charge**

Conditioned on the understandings specified below, this Office will accept a guilty plea from JAMES GABANY to a one count Information which charges him with distribution of child pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(A). If JAMES GABANY enters a guilty plea and is sentenced on this charge, and otherwise fully complies with all of the terms of this agreement, this Office will not initiate any further criminal charges against JAMES GABANY for (i) knowingly distributing child pornography from February 2018 through October 2018 and (ii) possession of child pornography on December 17, 2018. However, in the event that a guilty plea in this matter is not entered for any reason or the judgment of conviction entered as a result of this guilty plea does not remain in full force and effect, defendant JAMES GABANY agrees that any dismissed charges and any other charges that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date this agreement is signed by JAMES

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 29 2019**

**CHAMBERS OF US DISTRICT JUDGE  
PETER G. SHERIDAN**

GABANY may be commenced against him, notwithstanding the expiration of the limitations period after JAMES GABANY signs the agreement.

Sentencing

The violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(A) to which JAMES GABANY agrees to plead guilty carries, for a first time offender, a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment (because one or more of the visual depictions involved in the offense involved a prepubescent minor or a minor who had not attained 12 years of age), and a statutory mandatory maximum fine equal to the greatest of: (1) \$250,000; (2) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain that any persons derived from the offense; or (3) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offense. Fines imposed by the sentencing judge may be subject to the payment of interest.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(b)(1), if the Court determines that GABANY has a prior conviction under Chapter 110, section 1591, Chapters 71, 109A, or 117, or under section 920 of title 10 (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), or under the laws of any state relating to aggravated sexual abuse, sexual abuse, or abusive sexual conduct involving a minor or ward, or the production, possession, receipt, mailing, sale, distribution, shipment, or transportation of child pornography, or sex trafficking of children, the violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(A) to which GABANY agrees to plead guilty instead carries a mandatory minimum sentence of fifteen (15) years and a statutory maximum prison sentence of forty (40) years.

The sentence to be imposed upon JAMES GABANY is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge, subject to the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551-3742, and the sentencing judge's consideration of the United States Sentencing Guidelines. The United States Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, not mandatory. The sentencing judge may impose any reasonable sentence up to and including the statutory maximum term of imprisonment and the maximum statutory fine. This Office cannot and does not make any representation or promise as to what guideline range may be found by the sentencing judge, or as to what sentence JAMES GABANY ultimately will receive.

Further, in addition to imposing any other penalty on JAMES GABANY, the sentencing judge: (1) will order JAMES GABANY to pay an assessment of \$100 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013, which assessment must be paid by the date of sentencing; (2) must order JAMES GABANY to pay restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2259; (3) must order forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2253; and (4) pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583 must require JAMES GABANY to serve a term of supervised release of at least three (3) years and up to a maximum term of life on supervised release, which will begin at the expiration of any term of imprisonment imposed. Should JAMES GABANY be placed on a term of supervised release and subsequently violate any of the conditions of supervised release before the expiration of its term, JAMES GABANY may be sentenced to not more than two (2) years' imprisonment in addition to any prison term previously imposed, regardless of the statutory maximum term of imprisonment set forth above and without credit for time previously served on post-release supervision, and may be sentenced to an additional term of supervised release.

However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(k), should JAMES GABANY be placed on a term of supervised release and subsequently commit an offense while on release in violation of chapters 109A, 110, or 117, or section 1201 or 1591 of the United States Code, for which imprisonment for a term longer than one (1) year can be imposed, JAMES GABANY must be sentenced to at least five (5) years' imprisonment in addition to any prison term previously imposed, regardless of the statutory maximum term of imprisonment set forth above and without credit for time previously served on post-release supervision, and may be sentenced to an additional term of supervised release.

In addition, pursuant to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, 18 U.S.C. § 3014, upon conviction, unless the Sentencing Court finds the defendant to be indigent, an additional mandatory special assessment of \$5,000 must also be imposed.

#### Rights of This Office Regarding Sentencing

Except as otherwise provided in this agreement, this Office reserves its right to take any position with respect to the appropriate sentence to be imposed on JAMES GABANY by the sentencing judge, to correct any misstatements relating to the sentencing proceedings, and to provide the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office all law and information relevant to sentencing, favorable or otherwise. In addition, this Office may inform the sentencing judge and the United States Probation Office of: (1) this agreement; and (2) the full nature and extent of JAMES GABANY's activities and relevant conduct with respect to this case.

#### Stipulations

This Office and JAMES GABANY agree to stipulate at sentencing to the statements set forth in the attached Schedule A, which hereby is made a part of this plea agreement. This agreement to stipulate, however, cannot and does not bind the sentencing judge, who may make independent factual findings and may reject any or all of the stipulations entered into by the parties. To the extent that the parties do not stipulate to a particular fact or legal conclusion, each reserves the right to argue the existence of and the effect of any such fact or conclusion upon the sentence. Moreover, this agreement to stipulate on the part of this Office is based on the information and evidence that this Office possesses as of the date of this agreement. Thus, if this Office obtains or receives additional evidence or information prior to sentencing that it determines to be credible and to be materially in conflict with any stipulation in the attached Schedule A, this Office shall not be bound by any such stipulation. A determination that any stipulation is not binding shall not release either this Office or JAMES GABANY from any other portion of this agreement, including any other stipulation. If the sentencing court rejects a stipulation, both parties reserve the right to argue on appeal or at post-sentencing proceedings that the sentencing court was within its discretion and authority to do so. These stipulations do not restrict this Office's right to respond to questions from the Court and to correct misinformation that has been provided to the Court.

Waiver of Appeal and Post-Sentencing Rights

As set forth in Schedule A, this Office and JAMES GABANY waive certain rights to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion after sentencing, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

Forfeiture

JAMES GABANY agrees, as part of his acceptance of responsibility and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2253, to forfeit to the United States (1) all computer and computer accessories on which law enforcement, on or about December 17, 2018, discovered visual depictions described in Sections 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2252B, and 2260 of Title 18 of the United States Code; (2) all visual depictions described in Sections 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2252B, and 2260 of Title 18 of the United States Code that were produced, transported, shipped, or received in violation of chapter 109A of Title 18, United States Code; (3) all property, real and personal, constituting or traceable to gross profits or other proceeds obtained from the offense charged in the Information; and (4) all property, real and personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to promote the commission of the offense charged in the Information and all property traceable to such property (the “Forfeitable Property”). The Forfeitable Property includes, but is not limited to the items listed on Schedule B, attached hereto.

JAMES GABANY acknowledges that the Forfeitable Property is subject to forfeiture as a visual depiction, or book, magazine, periodical, film, videotape, or other matter that contains a visual depiction, described in 18 U.S.C. § 2252A that was produced, transported, shipped, or received in violation of chapter 109A of Title 18, United States Code; any property, real or personal, constituting or traceable to gross profits or other proceeds obtained from a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A or 2251; and any property, real or personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to promote the commission of a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252A or 2251 and any property traceable to such property.

JAMES GABANY further agrees to waive all interest in the Forfeitable Property in any administrative or judicial forfeiture proceeding, whether criminal or civil, state or federal. JAMES GABANY agrees to consent to the entry of orders of forfeiture for the Forfeitable Property and waives the requirements of Rules 32.2 and 43(a) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure regarding notice of the forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of the forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment. JAMES GABANY understands that the forfeiture of Forfeitable Property is part of the sentence that may be imposed in this case and waives any failure by the court to advise him of this pursuant to Rule 11(b)(1)(J) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure at the guilty plea proceeding.

JAMES GABANY hereby waives any and all claims that this forfeiture constitutes an excessive fine and agrees that this forfeiture does not violate the Eighth Amendment.

Immigration Consequences

The defendant understands that, if he is not a citizen of the United States, his guilty plea to the charged offense will likely result in his being subject to immigration proceedings and removed from the United States by making him deportable, excludable, or inadmissible, or ending his naturalization. The defendant understands that the immigration consequences of this plea will be imposed in a separate proceeding before the immigration authorities. The defendant wants and agrees to plead guilty to the charged offense regardless of any immigration consequences of this plea, even if this plea will cause his removal from the United States. The defendant understands that he is bound by his guilty plea regardless of any immigration consequences of the plea. Accordingly, the defendant waives any and all challenges to his guilty plea and to his sentence based on any immigration consequences, and agrees not to seek to withdraw his guilty plea, or to file a direct appeal or any kind of collateral attack challenging his guilty plea, conviction, or sentence, based on any immigration consequences of his guilty plea.

Registration Consequences

JAMES GABANY understands that his guilty plea to the charged offense will likely result in a requirement that he register as a sex offender under federal and state law, and he will be subject to the registration law's requirements and penalties. JAMES GABANY wants and agrees to plead guilty to the charged offense regardless of any registration consequences of that plea. JAMES GABANY understands that he is bound by his guilty plea regardless of any registration consequences of the plea. Accordingly, JAMES GABANY waives any and all challenges to his guilty plea and to his sentence based on any registration consequences, and agrees not to seek to withdraw his guilty plea, or to file a direct appeal or any kind of collateral attack challenging his guilty plea, conviction, or sentence, based on any registration consequences of his guilty plea.

Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act

JAMES GABANY has been advised, and understands, that, under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, a federal law, he must register and keep the registration current in each of the following jurisdictions: where JAMES GABANY resides; where he is an employee; and where he is a student. JAMES GABANY understands that the requirements for registration include providing his name, his social security number, the address of any place where he resides or will reside, the names and addresses of any places where he is or will be an employee or a student, and the license plate number and a description of any vehicle owned or operated by him, among other information. JAMES GABANY further understands that the requirement to keep the registration current includes informing at least one jurisdiction in which he resides, is an employee, or is a student not later than three business days after any change of his name, residence, employment, or student status. JAMES GABANY has been advised, and understands, that failure to comply with these obligations subjects him to

prosecution for failure to register under federal law, 18 U.S.C. § 2250, which carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a statutory maximum fine equal to the greatest of: (1) \$250,000; (2) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain that any persons derived from the offense; or (3) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offense.

Other Provisions

This agreement is limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey and cannot bind other federal, state, or local authorities. However, this Office will bring this agreement to the attention of other prosecuting offices, if requested to do so.

This agreement was reached without regard to any civil or administrative matters that may be pending or commenced in the future against JAMES GABANY. This agreement does not prohibit the United States, any agency thereof (including the Internal Revenue Service), or any third party from initiating or prosecuting any civil or administrative proceeding against JAMES GABANY.

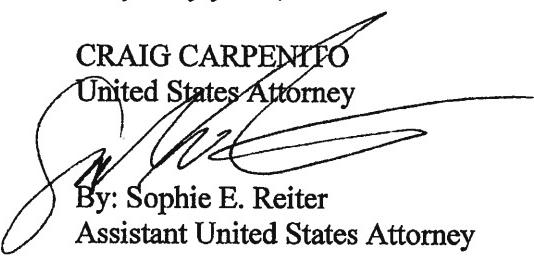
No provision of this agreement shall preclude JAMES GABANY from pursuing in an appropriate forum, when permitted by law, an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion claiming that JAMES GABANY received constitutionally ineffective assistance of counsel.

No Other Promises

This agreement constitutes the plea agreement between JAMES GABANY and this Office and supersedes any previous agreements between them. No additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties.

Very truly yours,

CRAIG CARPENTO  
United States Attorney

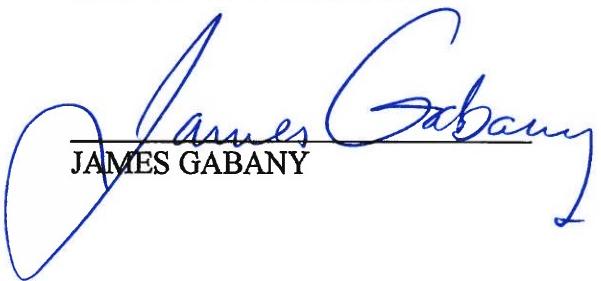
  
By: Sophie E. Reiter  
Assistant United States Attorney

APPROVED:

  
DARA GOVAN  
Chief, Public Protection Unit

I have received this letter from my attorney, Phil Nettl. I have read it. My attorney and I have discussed it and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charge, sentencing, stipulations, waiver, forfeiture, immigration consequences, and registration consequences. I understand this letter fully. I hereby accept its terms and conditions and acknowledge that it constitutes the plea agreement between the parties. I understand that no additional promises, agreements, or conditions have been made or will be made unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties. I want to plead guilty pursuant to this plea agreement.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES GABANY

Date: 5/7/19

I have discussed with my client this plea agreement and all of its provisions, including those addressing the charge, sentencing, stipulations, waiver, forfeiture, immigration consequences, and registration consequences. My client understands this plea agreement fully and wants to plead guilty pursuant to it.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PHILIP NETTL

Date: May 7, 2019

Plea Agreement with JAMES GABANY

Schedule A

1. This Office and JAMES GABANY recognize that the United States Sentencing Guidelines are not binding upon the Court. This Office and JAMES GABANY nevertheless agree to the stipulations set forth herein, and agree that the Court should sentence JAMES GABANY within the Guidelines range that results from the total Guidelines offense level set forth below. This Office and JAMES GABANY further agree that neither party will argue for the imposition of a sentence outside the Guidelines range that results from the agreed total Guidelines offense level.

2. The version of the United States Sentencing Guidelines effective November 1, 2018, applies in this case.

The Offense Conduct

1. The applicable guideline is U.S.S.G. § 2G2.2(a)(2), which carries a Base Offense Level of 22.

2. Specific Offense Characteristic U.S.S.G. § 2G2.2(b)(2) applies in that the material involved a prepubescent minor or a minor who had not attained the age of 12 years. This Specific Offense Characteristic results in an increase of 2 levels.

3. Specific Offense Characteristic U.S.S.G. § 2G2.2(b)(7)(D) applies in that the offense involved 600 or more images. This Specific Offense Characteristic results in an increase of 5 levels.

4. Accordingly, the offense level is 29.

Additional Factors

5. As of the date of this letter, JAMES GABANY has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the offense charged. Therefore, a downward adjustment of 2 levels for acceptance of responsibility is appropriate if JAMES GABANY's acceptance of responsibility continues through the date of sentencing. See U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a).

6. As of the date of this letter, JAMES GABANY has assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of his own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting this Office to avoid preparing for trial and permitting this Office and the court to allocate their resources efficiently. At sentencing, this Office will move for a further 1-point reduction in JAMES GABANY's offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b) if the following conditions are met: (a) JAMES GABANY enters a plea pursuant to this agreement, (b) this Office in its discretion determines that JAMES GABANY's

acceptance of responsibility has continued through the date of sentencing and JAMES GABANY therefore qualifies for a 2-point reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), and (c) JAMES GABANY's offense level under the Guidelines prior to the operation of § 3E1.1(a) is 16 or greater.

7. In accordance with the above, the parties agree that the total Guidelines offense level applicable to JAMES GABANY is 26.

8. The parties agree not to seek or argue for any upward or downward departure, adjustment or variance not set forth herein. The parties further agree that a sentence within the agreed applicable Guidelines range is reasonable.

9. JAMES GABANY knows that he has and, except as noted below in this paragraph, voluntarily waives, the right to file any appeal, any collateral attack, or any other writ or motion, including but not limited to an appeal under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 or a motion under 18 U.S.C. § 2255, which challenges the sentence imposed by the sentencing court if that sentence falls within or below the agreed applicable Guidelines range. This Office will not file any appeal, motion, or writ that challenges the sentence imposed by the sentencing court if that sentence falls within or above the agreed applicable Guidelines range. The parties reserve any right they may have under 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal the sentencing court's determination of the criminal history category. The provisions of this paragraph are binding on the parties even if the Court employs a Guidelines analysis different from that stipulated to herein. Furthermore, if the sentencing court accepts a stipulation, both parties waive the right to file an appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion claiming that the sentencing court erred in doing so.

10. Both parties reserve the right to oppose or move to dismiss any appeal, collateral attack, writ, or motion barred by the preceding paragraph and to file or to oppose any appeal, collateral attack, writ or motion not barred by the preceding paragraph.

Plea Agreement with JAMES GABANY

Schedule B

1. Cyber Power PC, Serial No. AB212888348510
2. Dell Optiplex PC, Serial No. 2HDVXF1
3. Acer Tower PC, Serial No. 1A22PJ13U-6001CU003D0280A